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ON THE MANAGEMENT OF THE INSANE.

THE claims of the insane on their happier fellow creatures are many and sacred. In the ruined bodies and minds of many of them we do but behold the last results of all the moral and political evils which cling to ancient social structures, however various in their plan; adorning them, perhaps, in the eye of the unreflecting spectator, and hiding the rents of a decaying architecture; but ever heaping fresh sources of destruction around the foundations, and assisting time to crumble the whole edifice into dust. The varied forms of misery, of privation and neglect, of abandonment physical and moral, which, in various combinations, make up the great unceasing contention for existence revealed to the physician in all his intercourse with all classes below the richest, concentrate their baleful rays upon the madhouse. Poverty there has done its worst; and man is reduced to a state from which, too often, there is no relief but death. From what causes proceeding it is not our task to investigate, but certain it is that if we go from house to house, except in a small section of society, we do but find disclosed the infinite forms of embarrassment and anxious pain. Madness is the climax. Always let it be impressed upon the minds of those who take the charge of lunatics, that they are called upon to exert their faculties, and to regulate their own actions, for the benefit of the most distressed of mankind, whose wretchedness, deep as it is, may yet be aggravated by unkindness; and that, except them and one "who turneth Him unto the prayer of the poor destitute, and despiseth not their desire," a lunatic has no friend. Relatives cast them off; society banishes, and all fear them. Their very amendment is looked on with suspicion; and for them the eye of affection beams no more. To the guardians of the asylums, whither they are driven for protection or cure, is given the high and singular ministry of securing the comfort and happiness of poor and helpless creatures, forcibly repelled from the more vigorous herd. They may still avert suffering from them; they may surround them with many blessings which they have a capability to enjoy, even in their bereaved intellectual state.

Those who are unacquainted with the history of families over which the plague of insanity has fallen, know but a part of the miseries incidental to human beings. If they could behold the accumulated trials of wives, mothers and daughters, under such circumstances; the immediate privations, the alarm and agitation, the sacrifices long endured for

those who repay such devotion with frantic abuse, with an ingratitude the result of disease, but which scarcely the less wounds and grieves the hearts of those who still love the doomed and falling creature, whose sense and whose character are alike undergoing ruin; they would be convinced that there is no sorrow like their sorrow. Sudden accidents fall upon the working-man, too, in which a fall, a blow, a wound, immediately injures the brain, and incapacitates the honest laborer, yet in the prime of life, from all future profitable work; and who can see and talk to this victim of calamity, in the quiet moments and intervals of his malady, when his anxious thoughts turn with honest faith to his home, to his wife, to his children, without commiserating that ruined humble household; not forgotten, but no longer supported and defended by the unfortunate husband and father, who must linger out his life in an asylum.

It may be thought that madness, like death, knocks alike at the palace gate and at the laborer's hovel; but ever more heavily and darkly does the misery which it flings over devoted households fall on the poor. In the families of the rich, individual eccentricities of temper and manner, and wild and wasteful extravagance, are borne with comparative ease. They are sources of vexation more than of suffering. Abundant comforts and sources of diversion are ever at hand; and however much the erratic relative may be a plague to his connections for a time, complying doctors are not long wanting, who, called upon by gay, impatient wives, or proud and very much shocked relations near of kin, consign the delirious brother or phrenetic husband to an asylum, far away from every acquaintance of his prosperous estate. When he dies, his wealth is divided with a dignified satisfaction; elegant mourning gives assured testimony of a respectable degree of grief, and devout thanksgivings are breathed over superb prayer books for the comfortable release. Among the poor, the progress of such a case, and its long dragging consequences, are more harassing. Eccentric conduct brings various kinds of punishment on the incipient lunatic himself; blows, and impositions, and imprisonments, and contumely. By degrees his whole family, his hapless children, his affectionate brothers and sisters, or a poor, devoted wife, are reduced by successive sacrifices to the lowest condition of poverty. The cottage is disfurnished. Food becomes scanty. With slow-moving charitable rescue, the parish officers relieve them of their heaviest burden. Yet when, at length, the poor creature, who brought all this suffering upon them, dies in the pauper lunatic asylum, these faithful relatives may be seen, in faded funeral garments, and at an expenditure for the day of a sum, small indeed, but to them considerable, their day's earnings, and sometimes by the omission of their day's food, following to the unregarded grave the remains of the unhappy wretch whose release is truly a mercy; shedding honest tears, for which, as in more exalted stations, there is not the consolation of property inherited, or the consciousness of a graceful sorrow.

In every point of view, then, it is difficult to conceive a task more important, humanely speaking, than that undertaken by the superintendents of lunatic asylums; to whom are committed for repair the spoiled

minds of society, with the hope that they can restore the delicate balance, the loss of which has disabled the man for all his duties in society, and made him useless or dangerous; and has cast out the woman from the circle of affections and of decency, pitiable, and distracted, and degraded. Their accomplishments, derived from nature and cultivation, should be proportionate to the undertaking. Their character, whatever it is, will diffuse itself over the household, and exercise a secret influence on every keeper and nurse, and on every patient in whom any trace of sensibility remains. The responsibility hence resulting is enormous. Good sense and good temper, so essential in every social office, are doubly essential here. To which should be added, the most exact order, enlarged views, so surely based as to be unswayed by opposition or difficulty; composure of temper in the midst of agitation, and not to be disturbed by the most violent and undeserved abuse, or by the most unpardonable foibles of agents unprepared by education and habits to fulfil at all times all their intentions. Their duties are not only important, but incessant. It is not only that every moment may bring an accident, and every advancing step may be the herald of agitation; but the minds of which they have the charge are never stationary, but advancing or retrograding every hour. To examine the new patients, to watch their progress, to detect the first glimmering light of convalescence, and watch it into day; to remedy the body when its disordered functions manifestly prevent recovery, and to rouse the mind when it lies under a fancied load, and retains a power and wants the will to be exerted: these are a part of their duties, and they comprehend particulars too numerous for any written detail; too constant, too anxious, too serious for any human witness to estimate. They are also often the medium of reunion between the patients and their friends and families; and even when the convalescent is discharged, can scarcely fail to look after their steps for a time with kind solicitude. Nothing can bear the officers safely and well through all these exertions but a sense of duty. Fame will scarcely reward them; and their department of exertion implies an abandonment of most of the worldly advantages which stimulate ambition beyond the boundaries of the asylum.

But, even without these reflections, the superintendents of a lunatic asylum find their hearts appealed to on every side. To them an hundred helpless hands are held out; and many a faltering, palsied tongue addresses its petitions. Under their management hope revives, even in the cell, and on the bed of straw, and smiles re-light the faces of those before forlorn and dead to every joy. By their care the frantic outrage of the maniac is abated, and the unspeakable wretchedness of the melancholic is diminished; by their timely and soothing words the awful dreams of the visionary, who "sees horrid night the child of hell," are oftentimes charmed away. Every act of their benevolence produces its palpable good. Every word, every look of kindness, finds its way to some pained heart, and does its blessed office. The great end, too, of all their exertions—the restoration of mental power—is infinitely noble. The physician feels that to restore health of body is an elevated art, the value of which those best can appreciate who have ever wanted the

blessing. The art of the mental physician is to restore alacrity of attention, readiness of memory, warmth of imagination, accuracy of judgment, and the power to will and to do; the loss of all which is the most grievous part of sickness.

If, then, the abnegation of self in those who take the charge of lunatics is expected to be almost complete, it is that they may be intrusted with the administering of aid to minds more imperfect than their own, and wholly secluded from the cheerful ways of reasonable life. In a world full of common duties, they are separated and devoted to some which may be said, without exaggeration, to be among the highest which a sentient and intellectual being can be privileged to fulfil.

To perform these duties efficiently, they must literally live with lunatics. Constant association with the wild minds that diversify the wards of an asylum can alone give a mastery over them, in every changeable mood. There is nothing to despise in such an occupation. To create the mind has been pronounced a work worthy of the Divinity, and to describe it the highest reach of philosophy: it is no mean task, therefore, to disencumber it of its physical oppressions, to recal its wanderings, to dispel its phantoms, and restore so high a work to unembarrassed exercise.—Perhaps a still more important task yet remains to teach mankind the *causes* of these most fearful visitations; that they may also learn the means of avoiding afflictions difficult to cure, and of which the tendency is to accumulate in every successive generation.—*British and Foreign Medical Review.*

FUNGUS HÆMATODES.

BY RICHARD GREGG, M. R. C. S. L.

THE following case of fungus hæmatodes occurred lately in my practice; the very great extent which the disease had attained before the patient would submit to amputation, shows at what a late period the operation may be performed with safety, when this frightful affection is situated in an extremity, although the state of the patient at the time scarcely warranted any interference:—

John Bell, aged 18, a sailor, discovered a swelling on the inside of his right leg, near the insertion of the patella ligament. He first noticed it in Nov., 1838, but paid little or no attention to it at the time, as the pain was trifling. The tumor increased in size very fast. I saw him for the first time in March, 1839, and on examination could feel that it contained fluid. I ordered him to poultice it. It now began to be very painful, and the motion of the joint was totally impeded. In April, I first discovered that instead of a common collection of matter, as I first expected, I had to deal with a fungus hæmatodes. The swelling now put on a livid red appearance, and was very elastic on pressure, immediately rising up after the fingers were removed. He passed sleepless nights, and had great thirst, and loss of appetite. In May he was still getting worse. The most prominent part of the tumor burst, and a large escape of thin, bloody matter took place. In two or three days a fun-

gus projected from the opening. His constitution was evidently sinking. I now proposed amputation of the limb, as the only means of saving his life, but both he and his friends were averse to it. During the months of June, July, August and September, I lost sight of the patient, his friends having consulted a quack, who told them that he could soon perform a cure.

Four months had now gone over, and I was much astonished to find the boy still alive, having received a message that he wished to see me. On entering the room, I was struck forcibly with the change he had undergone. The tumor now extended from below the knee to the upper third of the thigh. The hamstring muscles were in a diseased state, and so great was the weight of the morbid mass, that he was obliged to have it suspended by a sling placed round his neck, as he could not lay down without the thigh being in a flexed position. Hectic fever had now set in, with a troublesome diarrhœa. Takes nothing but a little wine and a large quantity of laudanum at night, the dose of which has been increased for some time past, until nothing less than 3 drachms gives him ease. The pain he suffers is intense, never being free from it, unless when under the influence of opium. Seems to be sinking rapidly, and is now desirous, for the first time, of having the limb removed. From the great prostration of strength, and his general emaciated condition, as well as the extent of the disease in the thigh, rendering the operation dangerous on account of its proximity to the hip-joint, I hesitated, doubting whether that could be done to save him, as it has been often found, when this disease has reached to so great an extent, that the viscera are in a morbid state. His friends now becoming more desirous than ever for an operation, and as there appeared to be no alternative but death, and that near at hand, I consented to remove the limb, after a consultation with my friend, Mr. Rae.

The operation was performed on the 15th of October last, being 11 months from the commencement of the disease. I made an anterior and posterior flap, by the transfixing method, as practised by Mr. Liston, and succeeded in getting a good stump, and one perfectly free from disease. Four vessels were tied; the hæmorrhage was trifling; the flaps were brought together, and the patient, totally unconscious, having fainted early, was carried to bed, the operation having occupied in all about five minutes.

He slept for four hours, and awoke refreshed. He now improved every day; the ligatures were all away by the 21st day, and the stump entirely healed in eight weeks. The tumor, when opened, was found to contain thin, bloody matter, interspersed with cells, filled with a brain-like substance, having every characteristic of the disease as described by Hey, Burns, &c. The bones forming the knee-joint were carious. The condyles of the femur were so soft as to break down under the pressure of the fingers. The muscles of the thigh, as far as the middle, were filled with a greasy greyish substance, and the tumor, when dissected out (along with the joint), weighed 17 lbs.

I have deferred sending you this case earlier, lest the cure should be incomplete; but six months have now passed, and the boy's health is

as good as he ever recollects it to have been, he being two stones heavier than he was before the disease set in, and perfectly capable of performing any duty that a wooden leg will permit. If the circumstances present an inducement to any of my professional brethren never to give up a similar case, however bad appearances may be, without an effort to save their patient, where an operation is practicable, I shall be amply gratified.—*London Lancet.*

SEPARATION OF THE PLACENTA, CAUSED BY A FALL.

BY THOMAS WHEELWRIGHT, M.D.

A LADY, about 26 years of age, of delicate constitution, small stature, with great pallor of countenance, having arrived at the end of the eighth month of her second pregnancy, in descending the steps of the street door, fell with violence down several, and was immediately taken up by her servant, and placed on the sofa in a state of syncope; on which she continued more than half an hour before either circulation or consciousness returned. In the course of the afternoon she fainted several times, but being accustomed to such attacks from slight causes, and not appearing to have sustained much bodily injury, little attention was paid to them, and my attendance was not called till the following morning, in consequence of a smart discharge occurring in the night, of a florid red color, but without pain. I found her under great alarm and apprehension, but at length succeeded in tranquillizing her mind, and restoring her to a measure of confidence, by the assurance she would do well, and pledging her to strict attention to the rules I should lay down for her governance during the remainder of her time. I therefore enjoined the recumbent position in a cool apartment, abstinence from stimuli, and every source of disturbance and excitement to be carefully kept from her. A dessert spoonful of castor oil, when needed, was all the medicine prescribed. Thus proceeding, the discharge, though frequently recurring during the month, on the slightest exertion, was so far controlled as not materially to injure her. One coagula only, of the size and shape of a pullet's egg, was passed, on the second day after the accident, and that with very slight uterine pain. It was clearly to be inferred that a portion of the placenta was detached by the fall, and I assumed the farther probability, that its attachment was over the os uteri. Entertaining such views of the case, I felt it my duty to make her husband acquainted with its nature, and the hazard that would attend her confinement, requesting to be called at the commencement of labor. In compliance with such request, I was sent for at 7 o'clock on the morning of the 31st of January, 1838, just a month from the accident. On my arrival, about an hour and a half from the commencement of pain, I found the os uteri dilated to nearly the size of half a crown, soft and yielding, with the promise of a steady and quick dilatation. The pains were now progressing in a satisfactory manner, each one being attended with a gush of blood more or less severe, but not to any alarming extent. Considering it of great importance to expedite delivery, I resolved to rup-

ture the membranes at the earliest period the state of dilatation would justify, and, ere long, succeeded, not without some difficulty, in passing my finger beside the placenta, and effected that object. The pains now became more vigorous and frequent, the placenta descending, with each pain, before the head of the child, until a portion equal to more than half its bulk protruded without the os externum, the head of the child resting on the symphysis pubis. The pains were now all I could desire, and being prepared at a moment for the usual proceeding in such cases, but calculating that the position of the head of the child, as it advanced its pressure on the bleeding vessels, would arrest the hæmorrhage, which happily I now found was the case, I endeavored to return the placental mass, and shortly succeeded in passing it beside the head, retaining, however, pretty firm pressure, until the next pain was well forward, and then, withdrawing my support, the head advanced, and in two more pains the delivery was effected. Thus, by a little simple management, was this hazardous case brought to a happy termination, and I had the satisfaction of seeing my patient in a state of comparative security, and without having sustained the frightful amount of discharge which usually occurs in such cases. The placenta shortly passed, no further discharge ensuing. The child was stillborn. The lady recovered without a single untoward symptom, regaining her strength slowly.—*Ibid.*

PERIODS OF HUMAN LIFE.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

THE ancients reckoned six stages of life.

1. *Pueritia*, childhood, comprising the first five years of our life.
2. *Adolescentia*, youth, reckoning from the fifth to the eighteenth, and youth, properly so called, to the twenty-fifth year.
3. *Juventus*, reckoning from the twenty-fifth to the thirty-fifth year.
4. *Virilis ætas*, manhood, from the thirty-fifth to the fiftieth year.
5. *Senectus*, old age, from the fiftieth to the sixtieth year.
6. *Crepita ætas*, decrepit old age, which ends in death. This termination of life, however, is seldom, if ever, realized, as accident or disease usually terminate man's mortal existence much sooner than the simple decay of nature would do.

Dr. Dunglison divides the ages into five periods, in the following manner:—"Infancy, comprising the period from birth to the second dentition; *Childhood*, that between the second dentition and puberty; *Adolescence*, that between puberty and manhood; *virility*, that between youth and old age; and *old age*."

This distinguished physiologist adopts the plan of Hallé and some other more modern writers in subdividing infancy into three distinct periods. He also makes a subdivision of virility and old age, according to the ancient author already named. But as it is confidently hoped that his excellent "Human Physiology" is in the hands of every practitioner, it will not be necessary to follow out his divisions here.

In looking at an old "Medical Intelligencer," published by John Cot-

ton in 1825, I find the following curious division of the *age of man*; and as an individual I would like to have it re-published in the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, hoping that it may interest other readers as well as myself.

"Childhood, from 1 to 7 years—the age of accidents, griefs, wants, sensibilities.

"Adolescence, from 8 to 14—the age of hopes, improvidence, curiosity, impatience.

"Puberty, from 15 to 21—the age of triumphs, desires, self-love, independence and vanity.

"Youth, from 22 to 28—the age of pleasure, love, sensuality, inconstancy, enthusiasm.

"Manhood, from 29 to 35—the age of enjoyments, ambition, and the play of the passions.

"Middle age, from 36 to 42—of inconstancy, desire of fortune and of glory.

"Mature age, from 43 to 49—the age of possession, the reign of wisdom, reason, and love of property.

"Decline of life, from 50 to 56—the age of reflection, love of tranquillity, foresight and prudence.

"Commencement of old age, from 57 to 63—the age of regrets, cares, inquietudes, ill temper, and desire of ruling.

"Old age, from 64 to 70—the age of infirmities, exigences, love of authority and submission.

"Decrepitude, from 71 to 77—the age of avarice, jealousy and envy.

"Caducity, from 78 to 84—the age of distrust, vain boasting, unfeelingness, suspicion.

"Age of favor, from 85 to 91—the age of insensibility, love of flattery, of attention and indulgence.

"Age of winter, from 92 to 98—the age of indifference and love of praise.

"Phenomenon, from 99 to 105—the age of insensibility, hope, and the last sigh."

There may be some inaccuracies in regard to the names of the different periods in the above quotation, particularly as regards adolescence and puberty, but the passions, qualities of the mind, &c., as therein attached to the several stages of life, are principally, if not altogether, correct, as I have no doubt every observing mind will at once admit.

Unionville, Mass., July 18, 1840.

E. G. WHEELER.

NEW SCHOOL OF ELOCUTION.—PROF. BRONSON.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

THIS gentleman has now completed his course of lectures in this city, and some remarks in the Journal of July 1st, have induced me to attempt a brief exposition of his leading principles, for the information of such as may not have listened to him. The Professor has been in several of our cities, and though much the same opinions were prevalent

among the intelligent of these communities as here, yet for some reason they have not been made public.

We do not intend to speak particularly here of the errors in pronunciation, which occasionally mar his delivery, or of the false intonations which sometimes break upon the ear in his attempts at recitation; these have been and will be attended to in other pages. We shall in few words consider the validity of his claim to a *new* system of speaking, founded upon a *great discovery* of his own, regarding the anatomy and physiology of the parts concerned in respiration; from which discovery he claims to have drawn improvements in the art of speaking, which place him very far in advance of any preceding elocutionist. And this grand discovery not only opens a new avenue to good speaking, and insures a fine voice, but it also guards the lungs of the individual, promotes the perfect arterialization of the blood, secures from, and even *cures* phthisis pulmonalis, and a host of chest diseases. Nor is this all; but the solar ganglion being kept in good order by the action of this principle, and this solar ganglion being the seat of the soul, hence the whole frame will be preserved healthy and vigorous, to a ripe old age.

But for the principle—the great discovery; it is so simple, its practice so easy, that doubtless all, speakers or farmers, lawyers or mechanics, will hasten to appropriate its benefits to themselves. It is simply this—“Breathe and speak, using the abdominal and dorsal muscles, and the diaphragm for the production of sound, *not the lungs*.” Here, then, is the basis of the claim which he prefers to the public notice and patronage. We hardly know what to think of this—that a man professing to a liberal education, or any education at all, should thus *discover* principles taught by the physiologist generations ago. We are led to the conclusion that he is very ignorant of what he teaches—since we would not think him the knave to promulgate such truisms for discoveries, among those who would not detect the imposition. What does he mean when he says in his chart, “Use the abdominal, intercostal muscles and diaphragm for expelling air, *not the lungs*”? Did any one ever dream of employing other agents in expiration? His leading principle is then resolvable into this: the muscles of expiration should be used in producing sound. This appears almost too strange to be true; but it is nevertheless so. He himself, as he says, was once the victim of a wrong method of speaking. He does not state to us what muscles he used on such occasions. However this may be, on his sick bed he made this brilliant discovery, that the abdominal muscles assisted in expiration. The tables were then turned—he recovered, and the *public* are now the victims of his new mode.

But it may be asked, if this be true, why is it that so many have borne testimony to the beneficial effect of his teachings, &c., when practised, in strengthening and improving the voice. We will allow that it is thus; and answer, 1st, there are many, indeed the great majority, who are entirely unconscious by what muscles they breathe or speak; or, perchance think, as Mr. B. appears to do, that the lungs themselves are muscular organs. Such persons having their attention called to the muscles used in respiration and speaking, particularly to the abdominal

—and the muscles of respiration being generally involuntary, and at the same time capable of being controlled by the will—they bring those muscles under its influence, and suppose that they are using them for the first time. Again, there are some who do not make constant use, in speaking or breathing, of all the respiratory muscles; those who have fallen into habitual false positions, as the bending forward the body, &c. To such, the advice which has been for very many years given by our physicians is (and certainly Mr. B. could do no more), shake off the evil habit, use *all* the muscles of respiration, and fully inflate the lungs.

The remainder of his philosophy which is at all tenable, possesses about as much claim to originality as the great leading principle mentioned above. We think of Mr. B. as the German poet Lessing once said of Voltaire—"His new is not good, his good is not new."

Not professing ourselves to adopt the Swedenborgian philosophy, we confess there is much we do not understand in his "three discrete degrees of mind, body, soul, speech, thought," &c.; but we find ourselves not alone in this respect, as the universal opinion is that Prof. B. "swims on bladders" far beyond his depth.

It would seem sufficient for any sensible person to look over his schedule of performances, to be convinced that he is what we doctors call a "quack." The endless variety of subjects introduced, and the rapid manner in which are despatched many important topics still in dispute in the theological, medical and literary world, many problems in mortal and mental philosophy, is truly astonishing and amusing.

We like to see every one estimated according to real merit. Prof. B. has certainly been much overrated; and we complain not so much of what he is, as of what he is not. The fallacy of his claimed discovery we have shown above; his style of lecturing is obscure and misty, and when he talks largely of obscurity in the writings of other teachers of elocution, we cannot but feel that he is far from being an adept in the use of a mental mirror. His illustrations are generally faulty; some, amusing from their far-stretched analogy; some, absolutely disgusting from their coarseness. His recitations are certainly mostly below par. He is very partial to a portion of Hamlet's advice to the player, but unfortunately concludes his quotation just when the worthy gentleman begins to bear hard upon himself.

We have spoken of the common opinion respecting him here. We are quite sure that the great majority would concur in what we have expressed; and the most favorable reply we have heard returned to the oft-repeated question—"How liked you Prof. Bronson's lecture?"—is, "I was much amused at his assurance and self-esteem." Yours, &c.
New Haven, July 18, 1840. E.

"FELLOWSHIP WITH THE MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY."

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

I AGREE with you, Sir, that it is for the interest of every regular practitioner in the State, to become connected with our Society. The pub-

lications are amply sufficient to defray all expense, besides the honor of being connected with this "venerable and excellent institution." Quackery has ever been denounced by it with open-handed justice, and the curses and lashes which its opponents have dealt out, have left it unscarred, and it now stands a noble and worthy monument protected by the father of medicine. If I interpret correctly the "By-laws," individuals can be admitted fellows who are graduates at "Harvard," or "Berkshire," or who are "licentiates." I wish, Sir, to inquire, "what is demanded" to admit a student for examination for a license. Shall he have studied three years? Shall he be compelled to attend two courses of lectures at one or more of our medical schools? Or can he come without any established prerequisite? I ask these questions that I may be able to advise my students. By giving me the information, through your Journal, you will enable me to impart the desired instruction.

July 15, 1840.

A FELLOW OF THE MASS. MED. SOCIETY.

[An answer to these queries will be found on the following page.
—ED.]

BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, JULY 29, 1840.

BY-LAWS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY.

THE new edition of the By-laws of the Massachusetts Medical Society is now in the course of circulation. We learn that there is liable to be some delay in supplying a part of the State, in consequence of the burdensome character of our post-office laws. It not being periodical, the postage on this pamphlet would be four and six cents a sheet, according as the distance is more or less than a hundred miles; and there are six sheets. The librarian, being apprehensive that some members might be unwilling to pay 24 or 36 cents for the sake of receiving it early, has made arrangement for the supply of those who choose to send for it, by Messrs. Whipple & Damrell, booksellers, No. 9 Cornhill. The members of district societies will receive their copies, as usual, through the Librarian of their own Society. Notice of this arrangement is given on the cover of the annual pamphlet, which is just published.

In this edition, the amendments of the By-laws, adopted at the late meeting of the Society, are of course incorporated. The principal change is in the provision for the election of Counsellors, and for voting by proxy, which grew out of the proposition of the late Dr. Belden, of Springfield, in conformity to the wants and feelings, chiefly, of the members residing in the western parts of the State. The Counsellors are apportioned to the several counties, in the ratio of one Counsellor to eight Fellows. Any District Society that chooses to do it is authorized to select its own Counsellors, and if the return is made in season by the District Secretary, there can be no doubt that the persons so returned will be *elected* by the Society. Provision is also made for a sort of qualified representation in the meetings of the Society, without interfering with the good old democratic principle

of allowing the whole to act *en masse*. That is to say, all that attend can act, each with his full share of influence; while those who are absent may select representatives to act for them. To make it a real representation, and prevent its being available for the purposes of intrigue or surprise, the right of acting by proxy is limited to members belonging to the same County or District Society; and no one is permitted to represent more than eight others. This arrangement will give to the distant members a full share of influence in all the actions of the Society; and it is confidently believed that it will effectually secure their convenience and cordial coöperation. It has been made altogether at their suggestion, and in the belief that it would meet their wishes. There are a few other changes, but they nearly all are designed merely to carry out in the detail the provisions we have here specified.

The 35th and 36th By-laws are copied in full, as they contain information which may be of service to individuals in the State who are not now members of the Society.

XXXV. Any person, who has received his medical education within this Commonwealth, may be admitted to an examination by any board of Censors, provided he have the following qualifications, and not otherwise.

1. He shall be a person of sound mind, and of good moral character, shall have completed twenty-one years of age, and shall have such an acquaintance with the Latin language, as is necessary for a medical and surgical education, and with the principles of geometry and experimental philosophy.*

2. He shall have studied three full years under the direction, and attended the practice of some one or more of the fellows, or retired or honorary members of the Society; during which time he shall have studied the most approved authors on anatomy, chemistry, materia medica, midwifery, and the theory and practice of medicine and surgery; or, at least, all those which the Counsellors shall from time to time specify, as constituting a proper course of medical and surgical education.

XXXVI. Any person who has received his medical education out of this Commonwealth, may be admitted to an examination by any board of Censors, provided he have the following qualifications, and not otherwise.

1. He shall have the qualifications first specified in the preceding By-law.

2. He shall have studied three full years under the direction, and attended the practice, of some respectable physician or physicians; and shall have followed in his medical studies a course equivalent to that pointed out in the second of the preceding By-laws.

Dublin Dissector.—Probably before the next lecture season of the medical schools commences, a new edition of the *Dublin Dissector* will be published, under the editorial supervision of Dr. Watts, the professor of anatomy in the New York College of Physicians and Surgeons. It has always been regarded with favor in this country, even with some glaring imperfections. Should there be such additions as Dr. Watts is well qualified to make, embracing whatever is new in anatomy, or rather in the mode of arranging the vast amount of materials which are at hand, the

* It is understood that he be able to translate the select orations of Cicero, the *Æneid* of Virgil, or the medical writings of Celsus, and the formulae of the *Pharmacopœia* of the United States; and that he have a knowledge of Euclid's, Playfair's, or Legendre's *Elements* of Geometry; and Bryan's *Conversations on Experimental Philosophy*, or Enfield's *Elements of Natural Philosophy*.

book will meet with a kind reception. Perhaps it is not saying too much to remark that if the new edition is not altogether improved, for it is certainly susceptible of it, Dr. Watts will very much disappoint those who have great confidence in his anatomical knowledge, and his other qualifications for the undertaking. Whenever the trade place it on their counters, we shall promptly give notice—and as there is little doubt that it will prove to be a valuable acquisition, the profession will be gratified to have it immediately.

Insane Asylum of New Jersey.—On a re-examination of the report of the medical commissioners appointed by the Governor and Council to ascertain the number, &c. of insane and idiots in the State of New Jersey, it appears evident that the Legislature ought to make a speedy effort for ameliorating the condition of that unfortunate class. The commissioners, of which Dr. Condict, of Morris, is chairman, have made out a strong case, that should command immediate attention, if the people of the State would avoid the imputation of inhumanity. Having divided the State into five districts, it is pretty well ascertained that there are not far from 358 persons whose claim cannot be denied. There is some obscurity in the report, so that it is rather difficult to ascertain precisely how many of the above are insane, or how large a part are idiots. In the first district, Dr. Smith, of Newark, is of the opinion that there are 164 insane and idiots. The counties of Bergen, Essex and Passaic are embraced in that division. Some of them have been in confinement for years—and some of them in *chains*! In the jail at Newark, says the report, are two lunatics; in New Brunswick, two in chains, and one in Gloucester Poor House; one in Cumberland and one in Salem in chains. The individual thus pinioned in Gloucester, is confined by "hand and leg irons, with a chain extending from each to the floor. He is neither vicious nor violent, and would harm no one, unless indirectly, by some mischievous prank." Dr. McChesney, of Mercer, also one of the commissioners, says, "I find scenes of misery and wretchedness that the citizens of New Jersey have never dreamed of—enough to melt the heart of the most obdurate." When the fact is stated, on the authority of this gentleman, that some of these patients have been incarcerated like the worst grade of criminals, "in cells, upwards of twenty years," it seems high time that the energies of the State were roused, to wipe away this foul stain upon its benevolence.

There is one fault in the report of the commissioners, and that is, they say too little about the actual statistics of lunacy in their several districts; and in the next place, they seem to speak too cautiously in relation to what the age demands for humanity, as though some one might be either offended or shocked at details—a moiety of which excites our sympathy, and if it does not spur on the inhabitants, through their representatives, to establish an asylum, the whole State may be regarded as morally out of order. In the meanwhile, till the proposed edifice is fitted for occupancy, let the chained maniacs be sent on to Worcester, for some of them may, perhaps, be restored to society before the buildings of the New Jersey Asylum are completed.

Embalming.—Dr. Harlan, of Philadelphia, an indefatigable philosopher, is preparing a work on embalming; but the precise manner of treating

the subject is unknown to us. Nor are we prepared to say when or where it is to be printed. One fact, in relation to it, is certain—viz., that it will be worth having, as everything else is that comes from his pen, especially when marked by that spirit and fervor which characterize his more prominent researches. Whether there is to be a simple historical description of the ancient manner of embalming, or an essay on the modern process now practised with considerable success in Europe, remains to be ascertained. If Dr. Harlan would turn his attention to the business of re-discovering Dr. Seyuto's method of converting the human and other bodies into solid stone, he would certainly succeed, if any one can. His patience, and the severe test of science which he brings to bear upon all subjects, convince us that he might begin a series of investigations that, in the end, would throw considerable light on that mysterious process.

Medical Degrees.—At the late commencement of the University of Pennsylvania, the degree of M.D. was conferred on the following gentlemen:—W. W. Williamson, I. Brinckerhoff, W. W. Lewis, G. C. Carrington, R. T. Maxwell, D. S. Triplett, H. D. Vaughan, T. R. Hurt, W. L. Davis, D. Robinson and J. M. Allen.

Division of the Muscles of the Orbit.—Mr. Liston operates in the following manner:—The lower eyelid is everted, and with a pair of spring artery forceps a small portion of the conjunctiva is seized; the forceps are then allowed to hang down, and the eyelid is thus held completely open; the upper eyelid is held up with the common speculum; a small double hook is placed in the conjunctiva, internally to the cornea, and the eye is pulled outwards; the conjunctiva being snipped across with scissors, and the sclerotic exposed, another hook is placed in this membrane, and the eye more forcibly everted. With a little dissection, the muscle is seen just as it ends in its tendon, and with a pair of scissors it is cut across close to its insertion into the sclerotic; the operation does not occupy half a minute when the patient is quiet, and one assistant only is required. The division of the tendon, at its insertion into the sclerotic, prevents any future contraction of the muscle, and the use of the scissors enables the surgeon to operate with much greater rapidity and ease.

After these operations, the patient is usually unable to bring the cornea to the inner angle of the eye; but in one case, in which the internal rectus had been most completely divided, and the strabismus cured, the patient still possessed this power. This circumstance suggested the idea, that a contraction of the two oblique muscles might, in some cases, be the cause of the continued inversion of the eyeball after division of the internal rectus.—*London Lancet.*

Medical Miscellany.—Cases of *stranger's fever* have appeared at Charleston, S. C.—A woman died at Lowell, the other day, at the age of 79, who, for thirty years, is supposed to have constantly kept her system under the influence of opium. She took night and morning, through that long period, exactly the same quantity, in pills—and enjoyed not only excellent health, but unimpaired mental powers to the last. At the computed cost of \$20 a year, she had swallowed \$1000 worth of, to her, a useless, intoxicating drug. She was as much of an habitual tippler as

the man who regularly drinks ardent spirits, upon whom the community frowns without apology.—Chloride of lime is again spoken favorably of as an antidote against hydrophobia.—Interments in Philadelphia, week before last, 164; of these, 69 were under two years of age.—Medical lectures commence at Dartmouth College next month. Dr. Roby, the newly-appointed lecturer, in the place of Dr. Bartlett, will be found indefatigable in advancing the interests of the students, and we congratulate them in being so highly favored.—Dr. Haynes's cheap abdominal supporters meet with approbation, as they are valuable, and within the reach of persons of moderate means.—A new work on midwifery is in preparation in this vicinity. When it is given to the profession it will be considered high authority.—No. 6 of the Western Journal of Medicine and Surgery—the only one received since No. 1, in exchange for ours, which has been sent regularly—has just come to hand. An interesting paper in it by Dr. Cartwright, of Natchez, will receive further notice.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.—The attention of many of our subscribers is respectfully called to the bills enclosed in this and the last No. of the Journal. We have never before found the number of delinquents so great, and we are in consequence subjected to no little inconvenience in meeting our necessary every-day expenses. Every subscriber is probably aware that money for periodicals may be forwarded, free of expense, by post masters; and it is hoped that this method will be adopted, where no other is preferable, with as little delay as the present hard times will allow.

DIED.—At Perry, Ohio, Jesse Pike, M.D., 25. Dr. P. received the degree of M.D. at the Willoughby Medical College in February last, and was a young man of great promise.

Number of deaths in Boston for the week ending July 25, 32.—Males, 17—females, 15.—Stillborn, 1. Of consumption, 4—convulsions, 1—inflammation of the lungs, 1—lung fever, 2—hooping cough, 5—infantile, 2—ulcerated liver, 1—old age, 1—fits, 1—disease of the brain, 1—palsy, 1—intemperance, 1—drowned, 2—inflammation of the bowels, 1—smallpox, 1—scarlet fever, 1—apoplexy, 2—cholera infantum, 1—casualty, 1—bowel complaint, 1—typhous fever, 1.

ALBANY MEDICAL COLLEGE.

Lectures will commence on Tuesday, Nov. 3d, 1840, and continue sixteen weeks.

Surgery, by	ALDEN MARCH, M.D.
Theory and Practice of Medicine, by	JAMES McNAUGHTON, M.D.
Materia Medica and Natural History, by	EBENEZER EMMONS, M.D.
Anatomy, by	JAMES H. ARMSBY, M.D.
Chemistry and Pharmacy, by	LEWIS C. BECK, M.D.
Obstetrics, by	DAVID M. McLACHLAN, M.D.
Institutes of Medicine, by	THOMAS HUN, M.D.
Medical Jurisprudence, by	AMOS DEAN, Esq.

Jy 29—tN

ALDEN MARCH, President.
J. H. ARMSBY, Registrar.

MEDICAL INSTITUTION OF YALE COLLEGE.

The annual course of Lectures, for the term of 1840-1, will commence on Thursday, October 1, and continue sixteen weeks.

Chemistry and Pharmacy, by	BENJAMIN SULLIMAN, M.D. LL.D.
Theory and Practice of Physic, by	ELI IVER, M.D.
Materia Medica and Therapeutics, by	WILLIAM TULLY, M.D.
Principles and Practice of Surgery, by	JONATHAN KNIGHT, M.D.
Obstetrics, by	TIMOTHY P. BEERS, M.D.
Anatomy and Physiology, by	CHARLES HOOKER, M.D.

Fees for a full course, \$76, to be paid in advance. No dissection fee is required, nor any contingent expenses, except a reasonable charge for subjects, which are abundantly supplied.
Yale College, New Haven, July 17, 1840. Jy 29—6t CHARLES HOOKER, Sec'y.

PHYSICIAN WANTED.

A YOUNG physician, well qualified and well recommended, will find an eligible situation in a pleasant country town, by inquiring of John Homans, M.D., Boston; John Green, M.D., Worcester; or of the subscriber, Rutland, Mass.
Rutland, July 6th, 1840. GEO. ESTABROOK.

MEDICAL LECTURES IN BOSTON.

THE Medical Faculty of Harvard University will begin their annual course of Lectures on the first Wednesday of November next, at the Massachusetts Medical College, Mason street, Boston. The Introductory Lecture will be given at 12 o'clock, M., in the Anatomical Theatre, on that day, and the lectures will continue four months.

Anatomy and the Operations in Surgery, by	Prof. WARREN.
Midwifery and Medical Jurisprudence, by	Prof. CHANNING.
Materia Medica and Clinical Medicine, by	Prof. BIGELOW.
Principles of Surgery and Clinical Surgery, by	Prof. HAYWARD.
Chemistry, by	Prof. WEBSTER.
Theory and Practice of Physic, by	Prof. WARE.

The students will have an opportunity of attending the medical and surgical practice at the Massachusetts General Hospital, and also of seeing the surgical operations performed there during the winter. The Faculty have reason to believe that the provisions of the law legalizing the study of anatomy, will be carried more completely into operation than has heretofore been done, and that the facilities for practical anatomy will consequently be much increased.

Boston, July 6, 1840.

Jy 15—tN1

WALTER CHANNING, *Dean.*

NEW HAMPSHIRE MED. INSTITUTION AT DARTMOUTH COLLEGE.

THE annual course of Lectures in this Institution will commence on the 6th of August, 1840, and continue three months. The Introductory Lecture will be given on that day at 3 o'clock, P. M.

STEPHEN W. WILLIAMS, M.D., Lecturer on Medical Botany and Medical Jurisprudence.
DIXIE CROSBY, M.D., Professor of Surgery, Surgical Anatomy and Obstetrics.
OLIVER P. HUBBARD, M.D., Professor of Chemistry and Pharmacy.
OLIVER W. HOLMES, M.D., Professor of Anatomy and Physiology.
JOSEPH ROBY, M.D., Lecturer on the Theory and Practice of Physic, and Materia Medica.

All operations before the medical class are performed *gratis*. Facilities for private dissection will be afforded if desired.

Fees for the course, \$50. Matriculation, \$3. Graduating expenses, \$18.

By order of the Faculty,

OLIVER P. HUBBARD,

Hanover, June 22, 1840.

Jy 15—eptA6

Secretary.

GENEVA MEDICAL COLLEGE.

THE Medical Lectures will commence on the first Tuesday of October, and continue sixteen weeks.

Institutes and Practice of Medicine, by	T. SPENCER, M.D., Geneva.
Obstetrics and Medical Jurisprudence, by	C. B. COVENTRY, M.D., Utica.
Anatomy and Physiology, by	JAMES WEBSTER, M.D., Rochester.
Chemistry and Pharmacy, by	JAMES HADLEY, M.D., Fairfield.
Materia Medica and General Pathology, by	JOHN DELAMATER, M.D., Saratoga Springs.
Principles and Practice of Surgery, by	FRANK H. HAMILTON, M.D., Rochester.
Demonstrator	SUMNER RHODES, M.D., Geneva.

THOMAS SPENCER, *Registrar.*

C. B. COVENTRY, *Dean.*

Geneva, July, 1840.

Jy 15—tO1

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.—MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

THE course of Lectures will commence on Monday, the 2d day of November, and be continued under the following arrangement:—

Practice and Theory of Medicine,	NATHANIEL CHAPMAN, M.D.
Chemistry,	ROBERT HARE, M.D.
Surgery,	WILLIAM GIBSON, M.D.
Anatomy,	WILLIAM E. HORNER, M.D.
Institutes of Medicine,	SAMUEL JACKSON, M.D.
Materia Medica and Pharmacy,	GEORGE B. WOOD, M.D.
Obstetrics and the Diseases of Women and Children,	HUGH L. HODGE, M.D.

Clinical Lectures on Medicine and Surgery are delivered regularly at the Philadelphia Hospital (Blockley), and at the Pennsylvania Hospital, from the beginning to the end of the session.

263 Chestnut street, Philadelphia, July 15, 1840.

W. E. HORNER,

Dean of the Medical Faculty.

SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS.

THE subscriber would respectfully inform the medical profession of the New England States, that he has taken an office at No. 350 Washington street, corner of Hayward place, Boston, where he shall be happy to execute all orders with which he may be favored. Having served for a number of years in Germany, at his profession, and having, also, been employed in England and New York, in forming and finishing instruments of the most delicate kind in use in Surgery, he feels confident that he shall be enabled to give perfect satisfaction to those who may be pleased to patronise him. He begs leave to offer the following testimonial of several medical gentlemen of this city.

C. A. ZEITZ.

We, the undersigned, would cordially recommend Mr. C. A. Zeitz as a thorough artist. The surgical instruments of his make, which we have ourselves used, have fully answered our expectations; and we can, therefore, with the more confidence recommend him to the medical profession generally.

JOHN C. WARREN,
GEO. HAYWARD,
S. D. TOWNSEND,

} *Surgeons to Mass. Gen. Hospital.*

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL is published every Wednesday, by D. CLAPP, JR., at 184 Washington St., corner of Franklin St., to whom all communications must be addressed, post paid. It is also published in Monthly Parts, with a printed cover. There are two volumes each year. J. V. C. SMITH, M.D., Editor. Price \$3.00 a year in advance, \$3.50 after three months, or \$4.00 if not paid within the year. Two copies to the same address, for \$5.00 a year, in advance. Orders from a distance must be accompanied by payment in advance or satisfactory reference. Postage the same as for a newspaper.